



RAPID TRANSIT

A publication of the Chattanooga
Whitewater Kids Club

Fall/Winter 2002 Issue

**Chattanooga
Whitewater Kids Club**
a junior kayaking
instructional program
for youth ages 11-16

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READ THIS!

- * E-mail us your trip reports for possible publication in future issues of Rapid Transit.
- * Log onto www.whitewaterkids.com for other articles and additional info on the CWKC.
- * Want to buy a used kayak? Give us a call!

FROM THE EDDY

Welcome to what we hope will be a three-times per year publication. The purpose of this publication is to keep you updated on trips, instructional clinics, and happenings of the Chattanooga Whitewater Kids Club. We have just completed a very busy summer that has included many paddling trips to the Hiwassee, Nantahala, Pigeon, and Ocoee Rivers. We hope to continue that trend this fall with trips all over the southeast and a slalom racing class in November. We are also already making plans for next summer, with huge hopes that next summer will see a CWKC paddling trip to the rivers of Colorado. So if you have dreams of paddling under the 14,000-foot peaks of Colorado, you had better get in your boat as much as possible this fall, winter, and spring!

We were saddened by the departure of CWKC staffer and instructor Miles Ledford earlier this spring. Miles decided it was time to focus his attention on academic endeavors, so he has left to finish up his business degree at UTC. Good luck, Miles, and we expect to see you soon on the river and in the boat.

Allow me to now introduce Shaun Smith, our new CWKC director, instructor, and organizer. Shaun brings HUGE paddling credentials to his work with the CWKC. Shaun has been a perennial top 10 in the country in men's slalom kayak, with an 8th place finish at the 1996 Olympic Team Trials

and a 10th place finish at the 2000 Olympic Team Trials. Shaun also recently finished 11th at the 2002 U.S. National Championships. Shaun is an ACA-certified kayaking instructor and has been paddling since he was 3 years old. He has paddled and trained in Costa Rica, Australia, and all over Europe. He has been known to push the limits of kayaking with numerous runs on some of the hardest whitewater in the world. Shaun even paddled the Upper Gauley and Upper Yough when he was 13 years old! After a devastating paddling injury in 2001, Shaun moved to Chattanooga to finish up his degree. We are very lucky to have a paddler with his credentials and passion for the sport teaching kids to kayak.

Come join Shaun and me this fall and winter.
SYOTR!

Jeff



Shaun Smith leaving the Room of Doom in the Upper Gauley's Pillow Rock Rapid.

TRIP REPORT: OCOEE RIVER FIRST-TIMER

By Taft Sibley, Age 15

My first trip down the Ocoee was a blast. I had always been a little intrigued about the river. I knew I had nothing to worry about though because I was with many experienced paddlers. The first rapid on the river is called "Grumpy's," from the put-in it is a hard ferry to river left. It is kind of hard because of the swift current. If you don't make the ferry then you are swept into some rocks. The next rapid is a great play spot; I had a lot of fun here working on

my stern squirt. On down the river is "Broken Nose," Unfortunately I did not make the small eddy on river right, I went down backwards! Luckily I didn't get stuck, and it was actually fun. After that the next rapid is "Double Suck." The eddy above is behind a big rock. I told Jeff that I wanted to go down the hard way, so he let me pick my own run. I went straight down into the hole; little did I know that it was a keeper. When I made it out everyone